New Hanover County School

School Mental Health Committee Meeting Record

December 17, 2012

**PRESENT**: Lisa Burriss, Susan Cole, Michelle Corwin, David Hand, Amy Horgan, Eddie Jackson, Amy Lambe, Rebecca McSwain, Carl Newton, Mike Palanza, Suzanne Rilling, Bill Trant

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**:

* Several documents were shared regarding helping students to cope with trauma. Schools in our community have adopted some of the suggested approaches in response to the deaths at an elementary school in Newtown, CT.
* A general discussion was held on: barriers to accessing MH services, insurance disparities among and between public and private systems, lack of parity between physical and mental health, opportunities within the Affordable Health Care Act, and tactics providers use to leverage insurance for families needing services
* Amy reported that CoastalCare (CC) implementation of the new Managed Care Organization (MCO) system has been delayed from the announced 1/1/13 start date. She stated that CC is currently focusing on outpatient providers; several are struggling with the MCO process. There is an emphasis on evidence based practices connected to service plan limitations and authorization periods. These will likely be shorter than in the past and will be more frequently reviewed. Targeted case management is no longer offered and will be covered by CC through its case coordination services. There is movement toward more deliberation through the care review process for children in out-of-home settings. CC has been delivering provider training on the new computerized billing process.

**NEXT STEPS**

* The projector system was down in the meeting room so we were not able to use the web-based materials located on the School Mental Health Committee Wiki at <http://school-mental-health-committee.wikispaces.com/>.
* Each Gap Committee leader present discussed changes/updates/issues associated with the Action Plan and future actions:
  + Prevention Gap #1- Lisa
    - Plan posted. Committee is looking at updates to pregnant teen supports and an assessment system for training on prevention procedures
  + Prevention Gap #2 – Susan and Mike
    - Plan posted. Although this action plan has gotten a boost from state’s Common Core and Essential Standards initiative, it is challenging to embed the NC Guidance Essential Standards within the instructional practices of secondary schools. Elementary schools are better at this. Many of the Common Core and Essential Standards are being supported by Measures of Student Learning which will be incorporated into the Teacher Evaluation process. It is unclear how this will unfold for the Guidance Essential Standards.
  + Treatment Gap #1 – Bill
    - Plan posted. Consideration is being given to issuing a Request for Proposals in the spring to potentially add a second private provider to strengthen system capacity. Several currently un-served schools have expressed interest in securing on-site outpatient services. (7 elementary and 1 middle schools are currently un-served). Hoggard staff present at the meeting will look into that school’s connection to the off-site WHAT clinic. The current day treatment/school partnerships continue to experiences challenges. Is expansion needed? Is another structure needed e.g. Alternative Education with mental health, juvenile justice, social services supports attached?
  + Treatment Gap #2 – Suzanne and Amy
    - Plan is written but not posted. Treatment team meetings have been more inclusive of school personnel but additional work remains. Issues remain with communication and coordination with step-downs and step-ups in level of care.

Some new members were welcomed today but some additional partners need to join us. Current members are asked to suggest candidates who can help move committee’s mission forward. Some candidates discussed: Access Academy, LeCris, and Carolina Support. Susan agreed to follow-up with these providers.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**March 11, 2013**

**9:00 – 11:00**

**Spencer 102**

**Remaining meeting dates for the year: March 11, 2013 and June 17, 2013. Time and location are the same as above. Please mark your calendars.**